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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hirotaoka OHASHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2171

Application No.: 10/608,567

Filed: June 30, 2003

Docket No.: 116225

For: LAYOUT SYSTEM, LAYOUT PROGRAM, AND LAYOUT METHOD

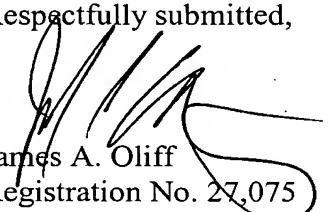
**STATUS INQUIRY LETTER**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please telephone our firm's Patent Application Filing Department at 703-836-6400 with the status of the above-identified patent application, including an indication as to when the next communication can be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: December 23, 2004

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